

# THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOL. XXIV. NO. 2.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1905

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## WATER COMPANY ACCEPTS

THE TERMS OF A CONTRACT RECOMMENDED BY BOARD OF TRADE AND CIVIC UNION.

A New Contract Made with the Montclair Water Company at a Reduced Price and for a Term of Twenty Years—The Contract for Filtered Water and the Price Sixty Five Dollars Per Million Gallons—Credit is Due the Board of Trade and Civic Union for Bringing the Water Company to Terms.

At an adjourned meeting of the Town Council on Monday night a contract was made with the Montclair Water Company to supply water to this town for a term of twenty years at a rate of sixty-five dollars per million gallons, a reduction of fifteen dollars per million gallons below the rate of the previous contract.

When the Councilmen took their seats at the Council table after a long conference in the clerk's room, Mayor Fisher announced that the only business before the meeting was the water question.

Councilman Harrison, Chairman of the Water Committee of the Council, stated that in accordance with the action taken by the Board of Trade and the Civic Union, the resolution adopted by those bodies had been submitted to the Montclair Water Company, and the Town Clerk had received a reply from the company.

Clerk Johnson read the letter he had sent to the Montclair Water Company, containing the Board of Trade's and Civic Union's resolution, and the reply of the company accepting the proposition.

Dr. Harrison moved that in view of the fact that the Montclair Water Company had accepted the Board of Trade's and Civic Union's proposition a contract be made with that company on the basis of the resolution.

The motion was passed by the unanimous vote of Councilmen Farrand, Green, Harrison, Chabot and Hepburn. Councilman Murray was not present on account of serious illness.

Mayor Fisher was authorized to execute the contract with the Montclair Water Company. The contract is as follows:

Agreement made and entered into this eighth day of May, A. D. one thousand nine hundred and five, by and between the town of Bloomfield, a municipal corporation of the State of New Jersey, party of the first part, hereinafter to be referred to as said town of Bloomfield, and the Montclair Water Company, a corporation of the State of New Jersey, hereinafter to be referred to as the said Montclair Company, party of the second part, witnesseth,

That the said Montclair Water Company, its successors and assigns, in consideration of the sum hereinafter set forth, and to be paid by the said town of Bloomfield, its successors and assigns, does hereby covenant, promise and agree to and with the said town of Bloomfield, its successors and assigns, as follows:

(1) Said Montclair Water Company agrees to deliver, and said town of Bloomfield to accept, a supply (continuous, except as hereinafter provided, and under a pressure of not less than eighty-five pounds at the point of delivery from the pipe line of the said Montclair Company into the pipe line of the said town of Bloomfield) of all water needed by the town of Bloomfield or its inhabitants for private or public use (which water shall be potable, wholesome and palatable, and shall be properly filtered), at a point on the line of pipe of the said Montclair Company as now laid, namely, at the corner of Broad street and Washington avenue.

(2) The meter is to be controlled by the said Montclair Company, and the representatives of the said town of Bloomfield are to have access to the same for the purpose of reading it, or testing it, in the presence of representatives of the said Montclair Company, at all reasonable times. During such time as the said meter may be out of service, the consumption per day shall be the average consumption per day of the next preceding and next succeeding month of which a record shall have been made.

(3) The said town of Bloomfield agrees to pay to the said Montclair Company the sum of sixty-five dollars per million gallons. Said Montclair Company shall present bills for said water between the first and fifteenth days of January, April, July and October of each year, and the amount of the same shall be paid by the said town of Bloomfield to the said Montclair Company at its principal office for doing business, on or before the first day of the month following.

If any question shall arise as to the correctness of such account, payment for the amount called for shall not thereby be delayed, but payment for the amount called for shall be made, and the town of Bloomfield shall have the right to proceed to verify or question the same. If any error shall be found by

either party to have been made in any measurement or settlement, the same shall be corrected by adjusting such error in the next settlement after the amount of the error shall have been determined.

And, whereas, it has been necessary hitherto, and will no doubt continue to be necessary hereafter, from time to time to temporarily discontinue the supply or reduce the pressure of the water through the conduit of the said Montclair Company for short periods of time, because of accidents and for the purpose of making repairs;

And, whereas, the said town of Bloomfield has no service reservoir in connection with its distribution system, such as is usually built in a town water supply system;

Now, therefore, (4) It is agreed that neither the town of Bloomfield or any inhabitant thereof, or other person supplied with water to be furnished under this contract, shall have any claim or demand against the said Montclair Company because of such temporary discontinuance of supply or reduction of pressure, or by reason of the absence of such service reservoir or any consequence to flow therefrom;

(5) It is further mutually agreed that in case of any disagreement between the parties hereto as to whether there has been due performance of any covenant or stipulation herein contained, or of any dispute involving questions not definitely settled by this agreement, all of such matters shall be referred to three persons or arbitrators, one to be selected by each of the parties hereto, and the third by the two so selected, and the award or decision in writing of a majority of them shall be final and binding on the parties hereto.

(6) It is further mutually understood and agreed between the parties hereto, that this agreement shall take effect on the date hereof, and shall continue in force and be binding on the respective parties hereto until the first day of May, A. D. nineteen hundred and twenty-five (1925).

(Signed) GEORGE FISHER,  
Mayor of the Town of Bloomfield.  
Attest: WILLIAM L. JOHNSON,  
Town Clerk.  
WILLIAM T. SNOW,  
President Montclair Water Co.  
Attest: ALBERT F. FISHER,  
Secretary.

The Glen Ridge Post Office Robbed.

Four Glen Ridge boys, William and John Webb, John Lyons and John Johnson, the latter colored, ranging in age from eight to twelve years, were arraigned before Recorder William Smith in the police court of Glen Ridge on Tuesday night, on charges of petty larceny preferred by Thomas Moritz, a telegraph operator, who also acts as postmaster and ticket agent of the Lackawanna station in that borough. The lads were all paroled in the custody of their parents, to appear before the Juvenile Court when wanted.

It is alleged that on April 28 the boys broke into the station and stole money. William Webb is also charged with the theft of a package of postal cards on the night of Sunday, April 30. In court the lads told conflicting stories, each one accusing the other of doing the stealing. The mother of the Webb boys declared that they were in bed at the time the robbery is alleged to have been committed. A number of pennies taken from the Johnson boy's clothing were used as evidence. When the recorder tried to find out who got into the depot the Lyons boy said that William Webb was the guilty one. The latter declared that the Johnson boy was the offender.

Chief of Police Brown and Policeman Higgins testified to having seen the lads loitering about the railroad station on the Friday night in question, and that when they asked them what they were doing they declared they were waiting to set up pins in the club-house alleys. The following day the loss of the money was reported.

Social Event.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Carl entertained their nieces and nephews at their home on Saturday last. Covers were laid for eleven; the color scheme was green and white, the centre piece being a miniature May pole, from which ribbons extended to each guest. The evening was spent in games, and a very enjoyable time was had. Those present were: Misses Mary Zabriske, Carrie Langstroth, Dorothy Langstroth, Doris Langstroth, Eleanor Johnson, Florence Carl and Elsie Carl; Messrs. Earl Langstroth, Walter Johnson, Gray Zabriske and Malcolm Carl.

The Authority of the Best.

Rev. Dr. Amory H. Bradford, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Montclair, gave an interesting discourse before a large congregation in Westminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday night. His subject was "The Authority of the Best." The service was under the auspices of the Men's Club, and the First Presbyterian Church congregation joined with the Westminster people in the service.

## BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Electric Lighting Plans for Borough Discussed—Mr. Ryan's Dog Again a Subject of Official Consideration—Sewer and Sidewalk Matters Acted Upon.

The Glen Ridge Borough Council met Monday night and discussed electric lighting plans for the borough. The discussion of the electric lighting question arose over the petition of Fred Pulsifer for permission to convey a cable over Essex avenue and Forest street. As the matter now stands, local ordinances prohibit the placing of poles in the streets and the carrying of wires across public thoroughfares, so that it is necessary to string the wires over private property.

Mayor Brewer suggested that the United Electric Company be approached in regard to laying a trunk line under ground on Ridgewood avenue. He said that if the company would do this the borough would consent to allow the wires to go overhead on the branch streets where necessary.

The Road Committee was requested to take up the matter, and try and arrange with the Electric Lighting Company for a comprehensive plan of wiring for the borough.

Vincent Ryan's dog again came up for a share of attention from the Councilmen. At a previous meeting of the Council a number of complaints were made about the alleged vicious propensities of Mr. Ryan's dog, and the Borough Clerk was instructed to notify Mr. Ryan of the complaints, and request him to keep the dog from running at large.

Mr. Ryan in his reply, characterized the action of the Council as malicious, and taken without cause. He stated that as soon as he received one authentic report of harm done by his dog he would shut it up, but he said the animal was harmless and the reports were false.

Mr. White remarked that he had personal knowledge of the dangerous character of the animal, which, he said, had badly frightened friends of his, and also attacked his dog.

Mr. Knight reported that he had the name and address of a man who had seen the dog attack Fred Riden of Bloomfield, and Fire Chief Smith added further testimony along the same line.

Mayor Brewer referred the matter to the Committee on Law and Ordinances. A request from Mrs. G. K. Harrison of 650 Bloomfield avenue that the borough sprinkle the street in front of her property opened the question of the condition of thoroughfares. Mr. White stated that the trolley company was responsible for sprinkling Bloomfield avenue, and the clerk was directed to call the attention of that company to the complaint.

Mr. Knight of the Street and Road Committee reported that he had been unable to make a satisfactory arrangement with Mr. Alworth of Montclair in regard to sprinkling the streets. Alworth refused to undertake the work unless he should be paid for the season. The committee was authorized to purchase two sprinkling carts at a sum not to exceed \$325 each.

The Council received several communications from residents in regard to the condition of the sidewalks, and Mr. Knight introduced a resolution which provides that all laying and repaving of sidewalks shall be done in accordance with the specifications contained in the local ordinance, and that all repairs shall be made by the property holders within thirty days of notice from the Borough Clerk. This ordinance will be passed on at the next meeting.

A petition was received from property owners concerned for the laying of a sidewalk on the west side of Essex avenue, from Warren avenue to Benson street, which was favorably discussed and referred to the proper committee.

Mr. Scheffer of the Sewer Committee reported that before opening Bloomfield avenue to lay the sewer it would be necessary to obtain the consent of the Board of Freeholders, and to make a deposit of \$200 with the chairman of the board.

A report was received from Lincoln Hook and Ladder Company announcing the election of C. F. De Groot to membership, and the resignation of George W. Heisart and H. N. Moss.

Mr. Bristol brought to the attention of the Council a law passed by the last Legislature to the effect that each active volunteer fireman in the State shall be paid \$12 a year. This will affect about sixty-four men in the borough. The matter was referred to the Fire Committee to ascertain whether the law contained any provision that such firemen shall perform any definite percentage of duty. A report will be submitted at the next meeting.

An ordinance was introduced by Mr. Lampher fixing the license fee for junk-dealers at \$2, with a deposit of fifty cents to cover the necessary badge. Mr. White thought the fee should be \$5, and that such dealers should not be allowed to carry bells. The question will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. White, as Chairman of the Water Committee, reported that the water supply would remain the same this year.

Manure and fertilizers at From-

## ASSESSORS' DUTIES

As Laid Down by the State Board of Equalization of Taxes—Must Assess at True Value and Not on Any Percentage Basis—The State Board Will Enforce the Assessment Laws.

The State Board of Equalization of Taxes has sent out the following circular letter to the assessors throughout the State:

By the act creating the Board of Equalization of Taxes of New Jersey it is provided, among other things, that "it shall be the duty of the said board to investigate the method adopted by local assessors in the assessment of real and personal property in this State, to furnish the local assessors information to aid them in making assessments," etc.

Paragraph 12 of section 8 of the Constitution provides: "Property shall be assessed for taxes under general laws and by uniform rules, according to its true value."

You are sworn that "you will, to the best of your ability and understanding, faithfully, justly and impartially execute the duties of the office to which you have been elected," and to your duplicate you are required to take an affidavit "that the foregoing list contains the valuations made by me, to the best of my ability, of all the property liable to taxation in the taxing district in which I am the assessor, . . . and that I have valued the same, without favor or partiality, at its full and fair value, at such price as in my judgment it would sell for at a fair sale by private contract on the twentieth day of May last."

It has occurred to this board that no better service can be rendered you and the State than by simply recalling your plain duty and obligation under the law.

As taxation is the most important function of government, for the safety and happiness of its citizens, it is essential that it be enforced with absolute justice and impartiality. The problem is not difficult or intricate. The constitutional mandate is plain, specific and unequivocal. The difficulties of the situation, whatever they may be, are largely due to the practical application or misapplication of these principles. Taxation being always assessed a burden, men are always seeking to lessen that burden so far as its obligations are concerned, and what is true of individuals is true of communities.

Through this there has grown up in some taxing districts a system of undervaluation with the ostensible purpose of preventing an unfair burden being imposed on a particular section. Long continued practice has so endorsed and dignified this custom that the expression is common that the assessed valuation is such and such a percentage of the true value, differing only in locality.

The mischief of this violation of the law needs only to be stated to be realized. The constitutional mandate, the legislative purpose and the duty upon all citizens is, that all taxable property, whatsoever and wherever in the State, should be assessed at its true value and under uniform rules. The words true value do not need any definition to the ordinary mind. It is not forty, fifty, sixty or ninety per cent. of real worth; it means exactly one hundred per cent.

If it be true, as generally charged, that millions of dollars' worth of personal property escapes taxation in our State, then the owners of real estate are bearing an undue and unjust proportion of the public burden.

This is a matter which concerns every taxing district in the State. All those in a county share in the county's burdens. Each county is interested to see that every other county shares equally, because all bear the State school tax.

A low valuation makes a high tax rate. A high tax rate is one of the most serious obstacles to the welfare of a community. It is the most prolific source of individual unfairness and inequality. If its evils are attempted to be corrected by untrue and, therefore, unlawful valuation.

If in the past there ever existed a seeming reason for this illegal practice, it no longer exists. Let each assessor do his sworn duty and there will be no difficulty. Should any one fail to do it, right of appeal exists and correction can be made. No taxing district need fear that by making a true valuation of all its realties, real and personal, it will be forced to bear an unequal share of the cost of government.

Your duty, however, is plain. You are required to list all the property in your taxing district, and on all of that subject to tax you are required to place its full value, that is, the value that it would fetch at private sale on the twentieth day of May in that year. This your oath of office requires you to do, and as above stated and also there shown, you must swear to have done it. A failure to do so, whether it be wilful or through gross neglect, is made a misdemeanor, and renders you liable to indictment. The Legislature, moreover, in the creation of this board, has given it power to enforce its orders by proceedings taken by itself.

proceedings taken by itself.

This is no new thing to which we have called your attention; but the examination made by the commission appointed to investigate the tax question shows that the average assessment throughout the State—a fact generally conceded—is below the true value.

It has been determined that this continued violation of the law must stop. We have written you at length, that there be no misunderstanding of the law and your duty toward those taxed.

You are therefore directed to strictly and literally follow the law by listing in the first place all property subject to taxes—which means personal property as well as real—and in the next place by assessing thereon its true value as directed by the statutes. This thing each assessor will be strictly required to do.

By Order of the Board of Equalization of Taxes of New Jersey.

FREDERICK R. LEHLBACH, Clerk.

## Explosion at Torpedo Factory.

By the explosion of a keg of powder in the marble novelty works on Midland avenue, Glen Ridge, early Wednesday afternoon, one boy was injured and the remaining employees were thrown into a panic. The detonation, which could be heard for some distance, shattered all the windows in the factory, besides tearing a great hole in the ground.

The concern manufactures torpedo balls, and employs fifteen girls and four boys. When the explosion took place Abraham Swanton, aged seventeen years, was entering the yard to the works, and a piece of the flying glass struck him in the head, inflicting a deep gash. He was removed to his home where his injuries were attended to by Dr. F. G. Shaul.

There was a momentary panic for a while, and a hurried exodus from the factory, but when the employees found there was no further danger they returned to work. The first report was that a boy had been killed.

## Busy Plumbers.

Hello, boys! I was talking with Jim and Jack last night, and I asked them what they thought the outlook was for the spring trade. Good! We have just signed a number of contracts. Among them is a handsome new granite residence which is to be erected on Belleville avenue for Peter J. Quinn; also a handsome new frame residence for E. Dodd, to be built in Glen Ridge, and one for Mr. Ashby in Bloomfield. If you do not know who Jim and Jack are I will tell you a secret. They are the busy plumbers, Arthur & Stanford of No. 449 Bloomfield avenue. Try them when you need a plumber or tinner. I assure you they will give you prompt attention and good work.

## County Tax Levy.

A county tax rate of a fraction less than .63 per \$100 was indicated Wednesday at the closing meeting of the fiscal year of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The total tax levy authorized was \$1,807,988.33, divided into \$1,168,851.06 for the county tax and \$639,137.27 for the State school tax. The estimated valuation on which the levy will be based is \$285,000,000 in round figures, an increase of about \$10,000,000 over last year, when the tax rate was .6483. Last year the appropriations were \$1,168,494.93 for county purposes and \$639,948.80 for State school tax, a total of \$1,808,443.73, or \$15,455.41 less than the aggregate for 1905.

## The New Fire Houses.

Elaborate preparations are being made for the formal opening of the new fire houses on Decoration Day. The programme includes a firemen's parade, with a brass band attachment; the formal opening of the new houses, with addresses by the Councilmen and fire department officials, and a luncheon for the firemen and invited guests. The carrying out of the programme is dependent upon the completion of the new buildings. The present outlook for that is uncertain. The fire committee will want a few days yet before officially announcing the date of formal opening.

## Essex Truck Company.

Essex Hook-and-ladder Company nominated officers Tuesday night. The election will take place next month. Those chosen are: President, Seymour P. Gilbert; vice-president, George W. Cadmus; secretary, J. Adolph Weimar; treasurer, Charles Hildebrandt; foreman, Frank N. Unangst; assistant foreman, Albert Loppack; trustees, Nicholas Van Sant, Frank H. Baker, Charles P. Linder and Charles Harrington; judges of election, Thomas F. Hays, Charles Ashley and William L. Johnson. The annual banquet will take place at the Bergen Hotel, Newark, June 14.

## BLOOMFIELD TRUST CO.

If you are thinking of going abroad this season we would be pleased to talk to you about a letter of credit to use on your travels. Our letters of credit are furnished by a New York and London banking house of the first rank and are good in all of the important cities of the world.

## BASE-BALL.

GAMES SCHEDULED FOR TO-DAY ON LOCAL DIAMONDS.

Bloomfield Club will Play the All Star A. C.—Watessing Won Their Opening Game Saturday, and Bloomfield Tied with Irvington Council—Other Games Played by Local Teams.

The Bloomfield Base-ball Club will play the All Star Athletic Club this afternoon on the Williamson avenue grounds. This club is one of the strongest amateur teams of the county and is made up of the following players: Abel, catcher; Miller, pitcher; Haynes, first base; Brahe, second base; Felix, short stop; Meyers, third base; Guerin, left field; Silkey, centre field; Schmander, right field.

The Bloomfield Club and the Irvington Council team played a tie game on the Williamson avenue grounds Saturday afternoon. Eleven innings were played, when the game was called on account of darkness. The game was marked by heavy batting on both sides, and the fielding work was fairly good.

The Watessing Base-ball Club opened the season Saturday afternoon at Watessing by defeating the Duquesne Club of Jersey City by the following score:

WATESSING.					DUQUESNE.				
R.	H.	P.	O.	A.	R.	H.	P.	O.	A.
Ferguson, A. C.	3	4	1	3	3	4	1	3	3
B. Elmer, 2b.	2	1	5	1	0	1	5	1	0
A. Dalley, 1b.	1	3	0	1	0	1	3	0	1
G. Elmer, 1. f.	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
C. Dalley, r. f.	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bradley, c. f.	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
W. Elmer, c.	1	3	10	3	0	0	0	0	0
O'Neil, 2b.	2	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
Durning, p.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	16	19	27	9	6				

DUQUESNE.					WATESSING.				
R.	H.	P.	O.	A.	R.	H.	P.	O.	A.
Legg, 1. f.	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Ryan, A. C.	2	1	3	6	1	0	1	0	1
McDowell, 1b.	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Simpson, r. f.	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Means, c. f.	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Miller, 2b.	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Gumear, c.	1	1	4	1	0	0	1	0	0
Crackett, 2b.	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Puttberg, p.	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0
Brady, p.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	4	6	28	20	5				

Duquesne Club, 0-9; Watessing B. C., 10-10. 6-4-0-4-10. The Watessings will play the Clifton A. C. of Newark this afternoon at Watessing. The Cliftons expect to win and will have their best team in the field. The receipts of last Saturday did not quite pay expenses, but it is hoped the club will do better this week, as people did not seem to understand the "tag system" that the club is trying this season.

In a closely contested game at the Arlington avenue grounds the Watessing School base-ball team defeated the Out-door Athletic Club by a score of 14 to 13.

O. A. C.					WATESSING SCHOOL.				
R.	H.	P.	O.	A.	R.	H.	P.	O.	A.
Davidson, I. f. p.	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	2	1
W. S. f.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Putley, c. f.	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Rawson, p. 2b.	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0
Jones, r. f.	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Walker, 2b.	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Kerr, A. S.	1	2	3	1	0	1	2	3	1
Cookfair, 1b.	2	11	0	2	0	2	0	2	0
Cady, 2b. 1. f.	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	2	1
Totals	13	26	13	13	6	11			

W. S. B. C.					W. S. B. C.				
R.	H.	P.	O.	A.	R.	H.	P.	O.	A.
Smith, p.	2	7	1	0	2	7	1	0	2
Bauswein, c.	0	7	1	1	0	7	1	1	0
Water, 1b.	0	9	1	1	1	9	1	1	1
Sisco, 2b.	1	9	1	1	1	9	1	1	1
Nutman, A. S. 1. f.	3	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	1
Stewart, r. f.	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Marwell, 1. f. A. S.	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Hibbins, 2b. 1. f.	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	0
Henderson, c. f.	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0
Samuelson, 2b.	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Totals	14	27	14	13	10	15			

On Saturday morning the Watessing School base-ball team gave the Franklin Field Club their second defeat by the score of 18 to 10. The score:

FRANKLIN F. C.									
R. F. O. A.					R. H. H.				
Rees, S. S. I. F.	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Archer, S. I. F.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Reid, C. H.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wyer, P.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Batsie, I. B. S.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Batsie, S. B. F.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sta, I. F. A. S.	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
McC, R. F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Simson, C. F.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyer, C. S.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0